

6A4/1648

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

SMIT et al.

Appln. No.: 08/807,506

Filed: February 26, 1997



Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: BUDENS, R.

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FOR: GRADUAL MODIFICATION, SUPER-AGONISTS AND
ANTAGONISTS OF SIGNAL-PROTEINS AND PEPTIDES

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PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 16, 2000

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Sir:

Applicants petition for suspension of action in the prosecution of the above-referenced application for good and sufficient cause pursuant to 37 C.F.R.

§1.103(a). No Office Action is outstanding and no reply is currently due to the Office. A Request for a CPA application was filed on March 14, 2000.

Applicants are foreign inventors whose domestic Dutch agent has been indisposed since Fall 1999, due to a very serious illness. The undersigned U.S. agent for Applicants has independently confirmed the illness. Applicants do not understand U.S. patent law, and heavily rely on their domestic agent for guidance and advice. Applicants' Dutch agent, in turn, consults the undersigned U.S. agent on U.S. prosecution matters on behalf of Applicants.

Applicants had originally thought their domestic agent would be able to return to work by Spring 2000. However, Applicants have now learned that it may be some time before their domestic agent is capable of advising on prosecution matters.

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Applicants are now faced with the possibility of having to transfer the prosecution of their application to another domestic agent should their original agent be unable to continue representation.

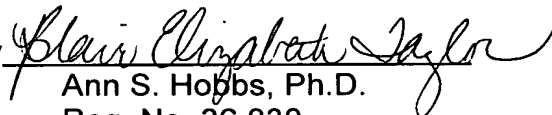
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that they have good and sufficient cause for suspension of action in prosecution on the merits. Applicants request a suspension of six months time to determine the best strategy for addressing this difficult problem.

Since the cause necessitating suspension of action is not the fault of the Office, Applicants have enclosed a check in the amount of \$130.00 for the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i). Should this payment be insufficient or missing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charged to Deposit Account No. 03-3975, charge number 51079/236842. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided should any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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